

Police said to keep file on radio show

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By EDWARD ROEDER

"Every day, five days a week," the radio talk show of Russ Johnson on station WEBB was monitored by Baltimore police listening for criticism of the police commissioner or the department.

The purpose of the monitoring, which was part of a larger intelligence-gathering effort aimed at Mr. Johnson, was "to get the show off the air," according to Howard Irving Glashoff, a former agent in the department's Inspectional Services Division (ISD) who was ordered to listen to the program and make notes "on anything about the Police Department or the commissioner."

Mr. Johnson, who was a Baltimore policeman before becoming a radio announcer, moderated a call-in talk show on the black radio station on which he and his callers fre-

quently discussed and criticized the Police Department and Donald D. Pomerleau, police commissioner.

The show was canceled in 1970 while the ISD intelligence effort was under way. Both police and a source knowledgeable of WEBB's inner operations said the cancellation was for reasons unrelated to ISD's activities.

The source said, however, that the show was used by spokesmen for militant causes so often that it began scaring advertisers away.

Mr. Glashoff said that "after each show" he would write out a longhand report on a legal pad and hand it to his superiors, either Sgt. Harwood W. Burritt (now a captain in charge of the Northeastern district), or Officer Vernon W. Bessling (now one of three sergeants in ISD).

The reports, Mr. Glashoff said, were then typed up and "went into a file—a manila folder—with Johnson's name on it." Mr. Glashoff described the file as "about an inch or two thick, with my reports, some photos, his service record [Mr. Johnson's police personnel file] newspaper clip-

See GLASHOFF, A5, Col. 1

GI benefits

Veterans of World Wars I and II will get higher GI insurance dividends next year and Korean era veterans will receive dividends for the first time, the government announced.

Details on Page A4

Police kept file on radio announcer critical of Pomerleau, ex-agent says

GLASHOFF, from AI pings and some other things" in it.

Maj. Bernard F. Norton, director of ISD, refused comment yesterday on why the Police Department would attempt to have a radio talk show taken off the air, or on charges published in the *News American* yesterday that ISD had spied on local reporters.

Both men named as Mr. Glashoff's superiors—Captain Burritt and Sergeant Bessling—have gone on vacation and could not be reached for comment. Mr. Pomerleau, the police commissioner, also is on vacation.

Mr. Glashoff, 29, joined the Police Department in January, 1970, and went first into ISD,

without any police academy training. In March, 1970, he began standard training at the academy and then was assigned to the Northwestern district. Mr. Glashoff worked in the Northwestern district in patrol until last October, when he was fired by the department for his participation in last summer's police strike.

Mr. Glashoff said he did not think what he did in monitoring the talk show was wrong, "because it was a public show." . . . I didn't think it was bad or against the law. . . . It wasn't like prying into his life, I didn't do that."

"My job," Mr. Glashoff said, "was to find out if he was saying something against the department that wasn't true, so the department could come

back and respond to it."

Mr. Glashoff recalled that he did not have any strong feelings about the propriety of what he was doing. "It didn't have too much to do with what I thought police work would be," he said. "It was like I was working on a personal vendetta."

Mr. Glashoff, who now is working in retail sales at a department store and "making more money than I did as a policeman," said, "I didn't think, though, it was an invasion of anyone's privacy or I wouldn't have done it."

Mr. Johnson is hosting a weekend music program on Washington's WHUR-FM, the radio station of Howard University.